THE
Last Dying Speeches and Confessions
OF THE
Prisoners who were EXECUTED on Friday the Twenty Second of this instant *October*:

And more especially of

Francis Nicholson,

Who is to be Hanged in Chains upon *Hounslow-Heath*, for barbarously Murthering Mr. *Dimbleby* of *Hampton-court*, for the promised Reward of Forty shillings.

And of the Penitence of *Ralph Markland* a Notorious CLIPPER, who was Reprieved.

AS ALSO

Of *JOHN NEALE* who was Executed at *Tyburn*.

With the Behaviour of those other five who received Sentence the last Sessions, but Three were Reprieved, and Two received Pardons.

THough seldome any Sessions ends without being attended with Tragical Events, yet so prone is Man to hurry himself upon dangers, that are still attended with ignominy and shame, that no Examples are of weight to restrain him from the villanies that are the causers of his miseries: although the danger is imminent, and the Law prescribes it death to act them, yet the hopes of escaping the Eyes of Men, prompts them on in secret, and encourages them to dip their hands in Blood, and to perpetrate other Crimes, little inferiour to the same; not imagining that the all-seeing God, who never slumbers, but with an Eternal wake views the large circumference of Heaven and Earth, beholds their dark contrivances, and when he pleases, brings them to the bar of Justice, to answer in the open day for deeds of darkness, and receive such punishments as they have merited; for through the many Ages since the world began, it has been curiously observed amongst the multiplicity of evils that have happened, that seldome the shedders of Innocent blood have escaped scot free, but by one means or other have been brought to light, though many years have intervened, which (as the Murtherers thought) were like veils to hide their guilts or bury them in oblivion, but like Agag they were deceived, when they flattered themselves with (surely the fear of death is over-past.)

But the youngster, of whose untimely though deserved end I intend to begin withal, had not so much deliberation; for having done the horrid Murther, and Robbed the party Murthered, of a Watch, Money, and other things, he made away to *London* with all speed, but was taken about St. *Martins in the fields*, in another Robbery, so that he was so far wrought upon by hellish perswasion, that he rather than to ask Heaven pardon for one of the foulest and basest Murthers that has lately been heard of, added guilt to guilt; so that being taken, he was committed to the County-Goale of *Newgate*, and the last Sessions brought to the Bar, where he was Indicted by the Name of *Francis Nicholson*, for Murthering on the

Sixteenth of *September* laſt, one Mr. *Dimbleby*, a ſervant to the Wardrobe-keeper of *Hampton-court*; and with him as acceſſary to the ſaid Murther, was likewiſe Indicted one *George Granger*, a Coachman to a perſon of Quality; *Nicholſon* being by Trade a Carpenter, upon his firſt Apprehenſion and now at the Bar did confeſs, that he himſelf did the Murder; having in a moſt barbarous manner cleft his Head with an Ax, which was produced in Court. But he alſo added, That the Coachman Arraigned with him did put him upon, and bribe him to do that horrid Deed; becauſe, he ſaid, he had ſpoken ill words of ſomebody he belong'd to; promiſing to give him *Fourty Shillings and a better thing* [for ſo were his words] *for the ſame*, and that thereupon he did it; but had no body could prove any of all this. Only it was proved, that when it was told the Coachman, that ſuch an one was Murdered, he ſaid, It was no matter, for he uſed to ſpeak ill of a Perſon of Quality, or words to that effect, on which he was taken upon Suſpicion. But this did not ſeem a ſufficient proof to Convict, ſeveral perſons of Eſteem teſtifying his honeſt Converſation, *&c.* ſo he was found Not Guilty. But the other, who confeſſed he did the Murder, and afterwards took the Gentlemans Money out of his Pockets and his Watch, which when he was taken he was found expoſing to ſale, was moſt juſtly Condemned, and received Sentence of death, being much dejected, and looked as if a lumpiſh heavineſs or ſtupifying inſenſibility had ſeized him: all that could be got out of him was, that he did the Murther, and that the Coachman hired him, he having attempted it three times before, but had no power to do it; ſo powerful is Conſcience to check ſuch bold and unlawful Enterprizes, till by obſtinacy it is ſeared, or put to ſilence. During the interview of time, between Sentence and Execution, he many times was obſerved to retire in private, and ſtrive to pray, but was often over-powred, with ſtrong temptaions, till by the prevalent prayers of ſeveral Godly Miniſters, heaven was entreated, and by power divine melted his ſtony heart, ſo that he was obſerved to weep and bemoan himſelf for his miſ-deeds, ſeeming very willing to Dye, ſo that he might be ſure of an Immortal ſtate of happineſs hereafter, deſiring all to pray for him, that the blood that lay ſo heavy on his Conſcience, might be waſhed away by the precious blood of his merciful Redeemer, and ſo continued for the moſt part, not being ſo much as daunted when the Smith came to take meaſure of him, in order to the making of his Chains; for ſuch was his doom, to be hanged up in the ſame, as a terrible Example to all ſuch bold and deſperate wretches, that ſhall dare cauſeleſly to deſtroy the Image of their great Creator. In the morning betimes he was conveyed with a great Guard and a numerous company of people, who went out of curioſity to *Hounſlow-heath*, as near as was convenient to the place where the Murther was done, and there Hanged till he was dead; and then the Irons riveted about his Neck, and under his Arms, and there left a diſmal ſpectacle to all that paſs that way.

Where leaving him, I ſhall proceed to the reſt, which was *Ralph Markland* for High-Treaſon, he received his Tryal with his Wife, and Maid-ſervant, and a Refiner that dwelt in *Grub-ſtreet*, all Indicted for High-Treaſon, for Clipping and Impairing the Kings Coin; *Markland* had formerly been a Brewer, and lived in good faſhion, but failed, and was Impriſoned in the *Kings-Bench*; there Poverty, and an Ill Conſcience, and bad Company, taught him this miſchievous Clipping Trade; which he has ſince followed to great advantage, living like a Gentleman by the Ditch-ſide in *Black-fryars*. The Evidence againſt him, was, One that being informed he was a Clipper, got a Warrant, and in ſearching his Houſe, found a ſhilling under a Cheſt of Drawers, juſt newly Clipt, and not ſo much as rounded; and alſo two low ſtools on which they were wont to rub the Money after they had Circumciſed it. Another perſon a poor woman gathering Herbs in St. *Georges* fields, found two pair of ſhears, and being

being adviſed to carry them to ſome Workmen that made ſuch Inſtruments, happened to light on the very Man that made them, who being examined, ſwore that he ſold them to Mr. *Markland*, and that what with new-ſteeling, and all, he had had of him four pair. *Markland* was askt what uſe he put thoſe ſhears to, being a Brewer, which Trade has no need of ſuch Tools; wherefore being able to aſſign no occaſion, he utterly denyed that he had any ſhears at all of the Witneſs, which rendred all the reſt of his defence little regardable. But beſides, there was one ſwore, that he had bargained with him to give him twenty two ſhillings in Clipt Money, for Twenty ſhillings fair and large, and that he had actually allowed him that advantage, they having dealt ſo long on that ſcore, as to have Exchanged five or ſix hundred pounds. But that which put all out of doubt, was the Teſtimony of one of the ſame Gang, that he had actually ſeen him Clipping, ſo that there was no colour of excuſe, but he was found guilty. After he had received Sentence, he behaved himſelf with great patience, carrying a Map of ſorrow in his face, and with a ſincere penitence, bewailing his miſ-doing, and the fraud he had put upon the Nation, by diminiſhing the lawful Coin, and taking from every ſhilling to the value of two pence, and from every half-Crown three pence. His Sentence was as the Law requires in that caſe, to be drawn upon a Hurdle to the place of Execution, and there to be Hanged and Quartered. In *Newgate* he was obſerved to be exceeding penitent, and had abundance of friends and acquaintance came to viſit him; as likewiſe ſeveral good Miniſters, Phyſicians of the Soul, whoſe good inſtructions are the great Preſervatives againſt the ſecond death, by ſtrengthning them for to reſiſt the temptations that at the near approach of this diſſolution are forcible and many, for then the ſubtle tempter is moſt buſie with his falſe ſuggeſtions. He ſeemed very willing, had it been in his power, to make reſtitution for the wrong he had done, but not being in a capacity, he deſired that all good Chriſtians would accept of the will for the deed, and ſo continued till the great ſummons of death bid him prepare him for Immortality.

The Refiner had been formerly queſtioned and got off, and ſo to he did now, there being no direct proof, but that he held a Correſpondence with the other, *&c.* ſo neither could it be fixt on his Wife or Maid, that they were actually concerned in, or privy to it, though ſome Evidence and Circumſtances were offered to that purpoſe; ſo theſe three were Acquitted.

A little Boy, ſcarce high enough to peep over the Bar, was Convicted of petty Larceny, for ſtealing a Gentleman's Handkerchief: And an honeſt Coal-heaver towards *Ratcliffe*, who alſo keeps a Victualing-houſe, was Indicted on a matter, which in it ſelf appeared by the Evidence to be a very barbarous Robbery, and a great deal of Plate and other things of conſiderable Value ſtollen; amongſt which was a Watch, which the now Priſoner bringing to a Watchmakers only to know its value, and there being Bills abroad deſcribing it, the ſame was ſtopt, and thereupon the Priſoner queſtioned: who proved by ſufficient Witneſſes, that the manner of his coming by it was thus; A perſon owing him eighteen pence (as he kept a publick-houſe) comes and pays it, and afterwards in diſcourſe tells him, that if he would lend him twenty Shillings, he would leave him a ſufficient Pawn. The man at firſt refuſed, but was at laſt prevailed upon by his Importunity to do it, the other promiſing to return the Money in two or three Hours; but not hearing of him for a long time, goes as aforeſaid to enquire the value of his Pawn: Nor had he been wanting in endeavours to finde out the Fellow that brought it to him; which as yet he had not been able to do, though he had been at great Charges therein: Wherefore proving the delivery of it to him, and alſo producing people of Credit that juſtified his Reputation, he was Acquitted, but juſt before Execution received a Reprieve.

Elizabeth Hull received Sentence with the former, for ſtealing Twenty eight pounds from one Mr. *Hadcock*, with whom the had lived in the manner of a Servant,

vant, but watching her opportunity, broke open his Trunk, and took out the aforesaid Monies. The proof was plain against her, nor could she deny it, but after Sentence heartily repented her of such her mis-doing, desiring pardon for her Offence, saying she was perswaded to it, and that she hoped God and her Master would forgive her, as she freely forgave all that had done her any injury, and so continued very penitent, bewailing much her miserable state.

Priscilla Wyn, and *Katherine Johnson* received Sentence with the rest for several Robberies, the former for stealing a Silver Porringer, and latter for stealing Cloth, and a Silver Tankard; *Johnson* had been an old Offender, and went by several Names; but by pleading their Bellies were souud pregnant, and thereupon Execution was staid till the time they shall be Delivered.

Edward Whitwick and *John Watkins* received Sentence also for killing of one *Smith* a Watchman, he being wounded by the latter on the 29th of *May* last, and dyed about the 18th of *September*; the former was a Coster-monger or Fruiterer, and the latter a Gardiner; they lived both of them in the Parish of St. *James's Clerkenwell*. And at their receiving of Sentence, the Jury entreated the Court to request the Kings Mercy for them; which was accordingly done, and they received their Pardons.

John Neale, a young Fellow, was found guilty of a Felony and Burglary; he and Eleven more of the Gang, violently entring into a Countrey house, and binding the people, took away Goods of a great value, and Nineteen pound in ready Money. The Mistress of the House Swore directly that the Prisoner was one of them, so did also another prisoner who was in the Robbery, and that he himself made Four pound of his share of the booty; nor did the Criminal at Bar deny the Fact. But a Broker Indicted as accessary, after having bought a Wedding Ring, which the Gentlewoman found in his shop, made shift to get off, but he was Condemned for the aforesaid Robbery, having been an old Thief, as well at the Foot-pad as breaking Houses. He very much importuned the Bench for Transportation, but it would not be granted him; so that being carried back to *Newgate*, he began to consult his Eternal welfare, and was very sollicitous with several Ministers to come to bestow their good Instructions upon these dying wretches in general, and to be instructed how to make his peace with Heaven before he parted with his Mortal state for Immortality, often desiring to hear discourse about Eternity, and to be made sensible what that unbounded Infinity was, whether it was comprehended by time, or had no end, desiring the prayers of all who came to visit him, saying, *He had been a grievous Sinner, but hoped that God would pardon the follies of his Youth*; and if he might live, he would strive to regain the time he had so vainly spent: But having been a notorious Offender, received the reward of his Crimes, according to his Sentence.

Thus may all loose people see, and take warning by the untimely Ends of these poor Wretches, lest the Devil tempt them to the like Villanies, and they wish they had been so wise as not to have done them, when it will be too late.

LONDON: Printed for *T. Davies.* 1680.